

Scripture: Colossians 2:1-13

Singing: 400:1, 3, 5 – 297:1-3 – 154:1-4 – 188:3-4

The Definition of Saving Faith (5)

Intro: Abram, the father of all believers (Gen. 15:6; Romans 4:17-25)

A. Saving faith is an **exercise** of trust rather than an **experience**

THE RECEIVING OF JESUS CHRIST

John 1:12 & Col. 2:6

A. His own did not receive Him (John 1:11)

B. Yet a number did receive Him (John 1:12-13)

1. John 1:13: *the source of their faith*

2. John 1:12: *the act of their faith: they received Jesus Christ the Lord*

C. What is receiving Jesus Christ?

1. It is an act of faith whereby we respond positively to His offered grace

2. To receive Him is we take Him and embrace Him & His Gospel message
a. a receiving heart accepts all His teaching as true

b. a receiving heart declares its willingness to have Him as their Savior

c. a receiving heart submits to Him as their Lord

3. To receive Him is like the bride's "Yes, I will" to her proposing husband

4. To receive Him is "*embracing Jesus Christ with all His merits, appropriating Him and seeking nothing more besides Him.*" (Conf art 22)

D. To receive Him is followed with a *believing on His Name*

1. Greek *to receive* is verb form that reflects a 'moment in the past'

2. Greek *to believe* is a verb form that is a 'continued action'

a. the best evidence of faith begun is *faith continuing*

E. What are the blessings of this receiving Jesus Christ?

1. "... *to them gave he power to becomes the sons of God*'

a. power: *right or privilege belonging to adoption (Col. 2:10, 11, 13-14)*

CLOSING EXAMINATION QUESTIONS:

A. Have you received Him? (John 1:12a)

In *Divine Truths* by Rev. A Hellenbroek, speaking *covenanting with Jesus*

a. How does a sinner enter in this covenant of grace?

● *God first comes to us*

- *when He kindly and beseechingly invites you,*

- *with much earnestness & uprightness*

- *and solves as your difficulties*

b. What is the result of this invitation?

● *God draws us with love to the Lord and the called sinners from his side accepts the Lord as his God and surrenders himself to God.*

c. What are the characteristics of this consent?

● *The sinner does it calmly, willingly, humbly, faithfully, uprightly, with a full assenting to demands as well as promises of the covenant*

B. Are you continuing to believe in Him? (John 1:12b)

1. What is the best evidence of a *true spiritual marriage*?

As ye therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him